

# 1956 Was a Great Year for Torrance, Figures Show

By TOM RISCHÉ  
The Year 1956 was the biggest one yet for Torrance, which is used to doing things in a big way.

For its work in meeting the problem of a community which has grown to seven times its size 10 years ago, Torrance was named as one of the 11 All-America cities for 1956. A look at some of the things which happened in Torrance during the past

year might show some of the reason for its selection. Locally, the boom continued unabated, as building totals smashed existing records, population zoomed to 85,000, two new areas were annexed by the city, business continued to grow, and many new civic buildings were completed.

City Moves Up  
In population, the town moved up another notch,

from seventh to sixth place in the county. It increased from an estimated 70,000 last Jan. 1 to about 85,000 today. It has increased even since a special census completed in November, which showed more than 82,000.

The sound of hammers and nails continued unabated as the city smashed its building record set in 1954. During 1956 a total of 446,479,239 permits was taken out, bet-

tering the old record by \$1,300,000. Construction slowed down toward the end of the year with December the poorest month in several years. The first part of the year broke all records, however.

During the year a total of 7931 building permits were taken out, an increase over the 7584 issued the previous year.

Permits for new homes to-

taled 3233 during 1956 and these were valued at \$32,700,000. During 1955, 3108 residential permits were issued. Local householders also built 2881 fences, 125 patios, and 59 swimming pools to enhance the value of their property. Top month for homes was January with 590 permits. In contrast, only eight were taken out during December.

A number of new families

and homes were brought into the city during the year as Torrance annexed the Victor and El Nido tracts after residents of those areas had approved the move. This added about one square mile to the city's existing 18.88 square miles.

In December Torrance also indicated that it would like to annex both Lomita and an area just north of Rolling Hills, as it filed incorpora-

tion papers. The outcome of this action will be determined in 1957.

New Buildings Added  
On a civic level, the new Torrance Civic Center—including City Hall, Police Station, Jail, and Municipal Swimming Pool—was completed. A new fire station was dedicated, two new schools opened, a new park added, and improvements made at a number of other

municipal facilities. Industrially, the city also continued to expand with permits taken out for 32 industrial buildings worth nearly \$2,500,000. Two industrial tracts—at Carson and Crenshaw and at Arlington and Dominguez—were begun and some buildings were occupied.

Commercially, permits for 59 businesses worth about

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# ARSON RULED OUT IN PV FIRE



FIRST NEW YEAR'S BABIES . . . Mrs. Nobel D. Monteiro, Manhattan Beach, gave birth to the first New Year's Day babies in Torrance Tuesday, Angela Jean and Antonia. The babies, born at 6:45 and 6:52 a.m. respectively, will join six sisters at home. Father Monteiro has just about decided that he will have to settle for sons-in-law instead of sons.

## Twins Lead '57 Parade of Tots

Nobel D. Monteiro, Manhattan Beach salesman, has just about resigned himself to a bathroom full of stockings for the rest of his life.

Monteiro's wife Tuesday presented him with the first baby to be born in Torrance. In fact, she presented him with the first two babies born here. Both new arrivals were girls and will join six sisters, but no brothers, at home.

The wee girls, Angela Jean and Antonia, first saw the year 1957 at 6:45 and 6:52 a.m. respectively. Angela weighed in a 7 lbs. 2 ozs., while Antonia tipped the scales at 5 lbs. 10 ozs.

Hoped For Boys  
Although Monteiro was aware that his wife was going to have twins, he had hoped for boys to balance up the family a little. Mrs. Monteiro said she didn't care which sex the babies were.

"I love girls," she said. "I'll probably have a lot of sons-in-law, however."

When they leave the hospital, the little girls will join their six sisters—June, 17; Pat, 15; Pauline, 12; Frances, 6; Valerie, 4, and Teresa, 2.

The father is a salesman for the Newark Electric Co. of Inglewood.

## Torrance Now County's 6th City in Size

Official population figures make Torrance the sixth largest in Los Angeles County as it moves into 1957, according to figures of State Controller Robert C. Kirkwood.

According to Kirkwood, the County's 10 largest cities are:

Los Angeles	2,243,901
Long Beach	322,884
Glendale	111,647
Pasadena	110,475
Burbank	90,482
TORRANCE	82,241
Santa Monica	75,132
Lakewood	71,316
Compton	63,670
Inglewood	56,315



HILL FIRE INVESTIGATED . . . Looking over some of the suspected arson equipment—oil cans and oily rags—is Donald Patterson, 5507 Rockview Dr., who joined the battle against the blaze which charred 92 acres in the Palos Verdes Hills Saturday. Members of the arson squad said yesterday that this oily material apparently was left by an amateur mechanic and that the blaze started accidentally, apparently from the dumping of an auto ash tray.

## Sheriff Blames Cigaret

The spectacular fire which blackened 92 acres in the Palos Verdes Hills last Saturday morning apparently was started accidentally, according to members of the sheriff's arson squad.

Initial investigation of the blaze, which drew firefighters from eight departments, had indicated that arsonists might have set it. After questioning several suspects, however, the arson squad concluded that the fire probably was started when an ash tray was dumped from a car parked at Punta Point.

Motorist Changed Oil  
According to Lt. Morris, oil cans, an oil filter and greasy rags found near the point where the fire started apparently were dropped there by someone who had been changing his oil.

The Palos Verdes Fire Department said the blaze damaged only grass, shrubbery, and trees, although it crept dangerously close to many homes.

Arson Suspected  
Since the fire occurred at the same time as the blazes which destroyed thousands of acres and hundreds of homes in Malibu, it was first thought that the fire had been set by an arsonist. Sheriff's deputies still are seeking persons believed to have set the fires in the Malibu areas. Fires in Malibu, Palos Verdes, and Bel Air all occurred in well-to-do residential sections.

Initial erroneous reports indicated that up to 3500 acres of Palos Verdes was ablaze, but Palos Verdes firemen pointed out that the city of Palos Verdes Estates contains only 3200 acres. Only 92 acres was affected, they said.

## 7-Year-Old Hurt; First Of New Year

Seven-year-old Stanley Akeahbox of 24224 Neece Ave., became Torrance's first traffic accident victim of 1957, when he was slightly injured Tuesday in a mishap at 242nd St. and Los Codosas Ave.

Officers said the boy's bicycle was involved in a collision with an auto driven by Ivan Jurco, 40, of 4718 Darien St. The boy was given first aid by firemen at the nearby Walteria station.

Mrs. Mattie Gilbert, 58, of Gardena, was the city's last traffic victim of 1956 when she was slightly hurt in a two-car crash Monday night on Cravens Ave., north of Gramercy Ave.

The motorists were Chester Gilbert, 40, of Gardena, and Joseph Drake, 20, of 1342 W. 222nd St.

## Attack Woman New Year's Eve

A 21-year-old woman told police that she was attacked Monday night by a man who accosted her as she started to enter her home.

She said she walked to her North Torrance home from the nearby store where her husband works and was grabbed from behind by a man who evidently had been lurking in the shadows.

The victim said she was forced to walk to the lawn of a neighboring house, where she was assaulted sexually.

## Support for New Hospital In Area Told

Initial success in acquiring signatures on petitions asking for the organization of a Torrance Hospital District was reported yesterday by Richard Person, professional campaign organizer.

Person, a former employee of the campaign organization in charge of the Little Company of Mary hospital drive for \$750,000, said he was convinced he could get sufficient signatures of registered Torrance voters to present to the Board of Supervisors.

The new district would be organized in much the same manner as that recently voted in by citizens of the Bay Area cities. Plans for a publicly financed hospital to be located in Manhattan Beach already have been completed.

## Bandits Open The New Year With Stickup

A middle-aged bandit and his youthful accomplice are being sought by police after they robbed Tony's Liquors at 190th St. and Crenshaw Blvd. early Tuesday.

Investigators said the younger, about 22 years old, entered about 1 a.m. and ordered a pint of whiskey. Minutes later, a man about 45 years old came in toting a rifle.

The proprietors, Mr. and Mrs. Tony Bosovich and their son, Tony Jr., were threatened with the gun and forced into a back room while the till was looted of about \$200.

Although the younger man at first pretended not to know the gunman, the pair left together, according to the victims.

The younger man was described as of medium build with dark, curly hair. The elder was tall, stocky with light hair.

## Police Find Stolen Truck

A pick-up truck taken during the robbery of an oil company messenger by a gun moll and her male accomplice was recovered Saturday by local police.

The truck, belonging to Andrew Russo, 26, of 17519 Patronella, was found abandoned near Del Amo Blvd. and Vermont St. Residents of the area said they had noticed it there since Christmas Eve.

It was taken by the robbery couple after they accosted Russo in a parking lot near the local California Bank on Dec. 21. They forced Russo to surrender \$2020 belonging to the oil company for which he works.

## Oil Workers Endorse Plan

Union employees of the Torrance plant of General Petroleum Corp. have voted unanimously to endorse the new Little Company of Mary hospital program and have urged the corporation to participate financially in the \$776,000 fund drive.

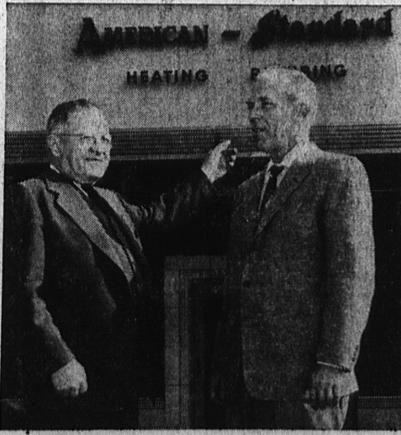
Bernard M. Dougan, president of Local 1-519 of the Oil, Chemical Workers' International (CIO), said the entire local membership of the union unanimously adopted a resolution endorsing the proposed voluntary hospital "a necessary benefit to workers and their families."

## LAW SEEKS FIREBUGS

Torrance police were still seeking the vandals who piled a Torrance teacher's clothes in her bathtub and set fire to them last Saturday morning.

The blaze occurred at the home of Miss Cathryn Chisholm, 2514 Sonoma St., who was away for the holidays. When the fire was discovered, the back door was unlocked, but a neighbor who had been watching the house during Miss Chisholm's absence said that the door had been locked previously and that the vandals must have broken into the house.

Apparently nothing was taken, but Miss Chisholm lost most of her wardrobe and her bathroom received considerable damage.



IT'S ALL YOURS . . . Henry W. Creager (left), retiring manager of the American-Standard plant here, tells his successor, LaVerne N. Gill, that the plant is all his as Creager left his post Monday. Creager, an active community leader, plans to continue with several community projects with which he is affiliated.

## Gill Gets AmStan's Top Executive Job

LaVerne N. Gill, superintendent of manufacturing at the Torrance plant of American-Standard since it was opened here nine years ago, this week was named plant manager to succeed Henry W. Creager, whose retirement became effective at the end of the year.

Gill, who lives at 1740 Addison Rd., Palos Verdes Estates, has been with the Torrance plant since Dec. 1, 1947. His employment with American-Standard began on Aug. 1, 1927, as a ceramic engineer at the San Pablo (Calif.) plant where he first worked for Creager. He has never worked for anyone else.

The new plant manager is a

## Car Accident Kills Woman; Seven Hurt

A Torrance area woman lost her life Monday evening on Moneta Ave. near Main St., as a car driven by her brother, Richard, sheved out of control and into a power pole.

Dead is Mrs. Sherry Lois Green, 19, 21138 Grace St., who was riding in the right front seat of the vehicle driven by her brother, Richard McAbee, 22, of the same address. He was booked in Los Angeles County Hospital jail on suspicion of manslaughter.

According to the California Highway Patrol, six other persons also were riding in the car at the time of the crash and all were treated for various injuries. They include Sherman Shotwell Jr., 17212 S. Main St.; John Obera, Marine Corps, Camp Pendleton; Dennis Crawford, 14, Gardena; Virginia Crawford, 13, Gardena; Gale Daring, 18, 20806 Jamieson Ave.; and Ronald Welker, 22, Gardena.

McAbee told officers that another car forced him off the road. CHP officers said the group apparently was returning from a party.

## Can Anybody Answer This Man's Query?

Frank H. Frohnhoefer, of 1116 Hickory Ave., has a question.

In a telegram to The HERALD yesterday, Frohnhoefer, a commercial photographer with offices in Los Angeles and Hollywood, said:

"Upon opening my Hollywood office today I found five wires from friends in various parts of the country inquiring as to what happened to the All America city float from Torrance. All made mention of the Gardena, Hawthorne floats. Tell me, how do I answer these people?"

The HERALD will be happy to print any explanations which can be offered to Mr. Frohnhoefer.

## Clerks Plan Headquarters

Plans for construction of a new \$150,000 headquarters for Retail Clerks Local 905 which serves Torrance and Harbor Area cities was announced this week by Ben Scott, executive secretary of the organization.

The new headquarters will be built at 25949 Belle Porte Ave., Harbor City, and will replace the present offices in San Pedro. Ground for the new building will be broken early this month.